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The Boy Who Shot the Sheriff: The Redemption of Herbert Nicolls Jr.

By Nancy Bartley

University of Washington Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Boy Who Shot the Sheriff: The Redemption of Herbert Nicolls Jr., Nancy Bartley, In 1931, a 12-year-old boy shot and killed the sheriff of Asotin, Washington. The incident stunned the small town and a mob threatened to hang him. Both the crime and Herbert Nicolls's eventual sentence of life imprisonment at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla drew national attention, only to be buried later in local archives. Journalist Nancy Bartley has conducted extensive research to construct a compelling narrative of the events and characters that make this a unique episode in the history of criminal justice in the United States. Nicolls became a cause for Father Flanagan of Boys Town, who took to the airwaves, imploring listeners to write Governor Hartley on the boy's behalf. The bitter campaign put Hartley in such a negative light that he lost his bid for re-election. Under a new and progressive warden, Nicolls thrived in prison. Inmates like physician Peter Miller and literary agent James Ashe became his tutors, finding that Nicolls had an insatiable appetite for knowledge. During the deadly 1934 prison riot at Walla Walla, several prisoners kept him...



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